October 23, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Associated Press: Mich. Supreme Court takes justice on the road

"The Michigan Supreme Court is taking its robes to Big Rapids. The justices are hearing arguments Wednesday at Big Rapids High School in the case of an injured motorcyclist. Lejuan Rambin is suing to get insurance benefits, but he had no valid Michigan license."

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit News, the Cadillac News, the Daily Journal/Franklin, IN, the Times-Post/Pendleton, IN, the San Francisco Chronicle, WWMT-TV(3)/Kalamazoo, WPBN-WTOM TV 7&4/Traverse City and other media outlets.

Also see:

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court takes to the road once again

Full story

9&10 News/Cadillac: Students Attend Michigan Supreme Court Hearing *Full story*

Big Rapids High School to host Michigan Supreme Court on October 23

Area high school, college students to meet Supreme Court justices, hear arguments in motorcycle injury case as part of "Court Community Connections" program

Press release

Oakland County Legal News: Chief judges to begin new terms in January

"Chief Judge Nanci Grant has been appointed to a third consecutive two-year term as chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court beginning January 1, 2014. The announcement was made late last week by the Michigan Supreme Court.... In addition, Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti has recently been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as chief judge of the Oakland County Probate Court [beginning January 1, 2014.]"

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Detroit Legal News.

Also see:

"Judicial leaders" of Michigan trial courts, Court of Appeals named by Michigan Supreme Court; chief judges to promote efficiency, public service High court continues trend of appointing one chief judge to oversee multiple trial courts **Press release**

The Detroit News: Judge rules Detroit EM candidate names must be disclosed, but delays their release pending appeal

"A Wayne County circuit judge ruled the state must release the names and resumes of the final candidates who applied to become Detroit's emergency manager. Union activist Robert Davis scored a small victory when Judge Maria Oxholm ordered the state to turn over the emails within 48 hours. But her ruling grants a stay until the case heard by the state court of appeals. An emergency motion for expedited ruling is expected to be filed."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Names of Detroit emergency manager candidates must be public, judge rules

Full story

Associated Press: Judge orders release of Detroit emergency manager candidate names

Full story

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: State must release names of candidates considered for Detroit emergency manager job

Full story

The Detroit News: Men convicted in Matthew Landry's abduction death to get new hearings

"Two men convicted in the abduction and death of a 21-year-old Chesterfield Township man will get new hearings in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down mandatory no-parole sentences for murder committed by teenagers. The hearings for Ihab Maslamani and Robert Taylor will be held in February. Counsel for Maslamani and Taylor appeared before Judge Diane M. Druzinski at Macomb County Circuit Court on Wednesday."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Matt Landry's mom relives his murder as killers face resentencing

Full story

Central Michigan Life/Mount Pleasant: Former Michigan Supreme Court justice speaks on new book

"Former state Supreme Court Chief Justice Elizabeth Weaver called for increased transparency in the Michigan court system at a discussion panel Monday in the Powers Hall Ballroom. Weaver is the co-author of 'Judicial Deceit: Tyranny and Unnecessary Secrecy at the Michigan Supreme Court.' "
Full story

Detroit Legal News: LAD announces winners of 2013 'Laddy' awards

"Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) has announced the winners of its 2013 'Laddy' awards honoring members of the legal community for their pro bono service to LAD clients: ... Friend of LAD - Judge Charles G. Goedert of 43rd District Court, Hazel Park.... The awards will be presented Thursday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. in the historic chief judge's courtroom of the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette St., Detroit."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: UDM Law alumni Reunion Gala to be held at Detroit Athletic Club

"The 11th annual Reunion Gala for all University of Detroit Mercy School of Law alumni will be held at the Detroit Athletic Club on Saturday, November 9, from 6:30-11 p.m. This year instead of honoring a single individual as the school's Alumnus of the Year, UDM Law alumni will celebrate the school's rich history of being known as 'the law school of judges.' Currently, the school has 220 alumni who are active or retired members of the judiciary."

Full story

Grand Rapids Legal News: Honorable John A. Hohman, Jr., named State Court Administrator

"Judge John A. Hohman, Jr., a 16-year veteran of the Monroe County Probate and Family Court, has been named State Court Administrator. He will head the State Court Administrative Office, the administrative agency of the Michigan Supreme Court. He succeeds State Court Administrator Chad C. Schmucker, who had been the administrator since 2011."

Grand Rapids Press: Macatawa Park housing developer to move ahead after Court of Appeals denies challenge

"Plans to build and sell luxury homes and condominiums in Macatawa Park will move ahead after the state Court of Appeals denied an appeal of the plans by neighboring cottage owners. In a one-sentence ruling, the appellate court upheld an Ottawa County Circuit Court ruling that gave Point West 1 permission to build a 40-unit residential development and 80-slip marina on the site of the former Point West restaurant and resort."

Full story

Also see:

The Holland Sentinel: Macatawa suit denied on appeal

Full story

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Coloma Twp. moves to close gun range; Sheriff not convinced he has to comply

"Coloma Township has directed Berrien County to stop using its law enforcement shooting range, claiming that a building recently erected at the site violates state law and the township zoning ordinance. In an Oct. 17 letter to Sheriff Paul Bailey and county board Chairman Jon Hinkelman, the township said the 'shooting range building' is also inconsistent with a 2008 Michigan Supreme Court decision. That ruling led to the range closing."

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: City to pay \$19,500 settlement to man who slipped and fell on Kalamazoo Metro Transit bus

"The city of Kalamazoo will pay \$19,500 to a Portage man who slipped and fell on a Kalamazoo Metro Transit bus. The Kalamazoo City Commission approved the settlement at its meeting Monday following a closed session."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Judge addresses PALS gathering

"The Polish American Legal Society recently hosted a general meeting featuring Wayne County 24th District Court Judge Richard Page. Happy to welcome Page to the event at the Polish Village Cafe in Hamtramck were [retired Judge Richard Wygonik, Wayne County 20th District Court Chief Judge Mark Plawecki and other local attorneys.]"

Full story

The MLW Blog: Parsing the Lions' share

"One of the cases from the Michigan Court of Appeals this morning is Detroit Lions, Inc., et al. v. City of Dearborn, et al. It's a tax dispute, involving how much the equipment and other property at the NFL team's practice facility are worth."

Full story

MLive.com: Unemployment drug testing bill heads to Snyder, but will it head to courts over medical marijuana?

"Michigan residents who use illegal drugs or refuse to take a drug test offered by a prospective employer could lose unemployment benefits under a bill headed to the desk of Gov. Rick Snyder. It's not clear whether residents who use medical marijuana -- legal in Michigan since voter approval in 2008 -- could suffer the same fate."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Mom has upper hand in same-sex custody dispute

"An Upper Peninsula woman has no rights to a child born to her former female partner. The Michigan appeals court last week agreed with a Dickinson County judge who dismissed a lawsuit by Jennifer Stankevich. She was seeking custody and other rights."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Judge Hood to be presented with Archer Award, Nov. 6

"On Wednesday, Nov. 6, retired Judge Harold Hood will receive the ninth annual Dennis W. Archer Award for Public Service presented by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation. The award will be presented during a gala reception at the newly-renovated Cobo Center in downtown Detroit."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: OCBA UPDATE: Taking care of business

Oakland County Bar Association President James G. Derian writes "... The new business court statute closely followed the recommendations of the State Bar's Judicial Crossroads Taskforce.... Oakland County's specialized business docket commenced operation this year on July 1, 2013. The two sitting Oakland Circuit judges selected by the Supreme Court to preside over Oakland County's specialized business docket are Judge Jim Alexander and Judge Wendy Potts, who will serve six-year terms." Full story